

Prisoner Reentry

Improving public safety - reducing the threat
released offenders pose to the public

Presentation to the Crime Commission

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Prison Population Forecast

State responsible population = state inmates
in prison + a number held in jails

Numbers shown are for end of fiscal year:

- 2007 (actual) - 38,007
- 2008 - 39,347
- 2009 - 40,305
- 2010 - 41,292
- 2011 - 42,399
- 2012 - 43,559
- 2013 - 44,744

Growth is expected to average over 1,000 per year for next 6 years

New Prison Construction

- Forecast will require construction of one new prison each year for next 6 years
- New 1,000 bed medium security prison costs \$100 million to construct
- Once opened, it costs \$25 million per year to operate
- FY08 DOC operating appropriation is currently \$1.025 billion

Jail Population Forecast

- 2007 local responsible population was 20,703
- In addition, jails held 5,980 state responsible offenders
- Approximately 2,500 of these were considered “out of compliance”
- (As of December 7, 2007, out of compliance numbers had dropped to 1,791)
- Local responsible population is expected to grow an average of 4.8% per year for the next 6 years
- Average growth projected at about 1,100 per year

Prison Releases

- 12,811 inmates were released from prisons back to their communities in calendar year 2006
 - Up from 8,997 in 1999
- Average time spent in prison was 41 months
- Average age at release was 36 years
- Over 60% were African-American

- Largest number (7.1%) returned to Norfolk
- 4.7% to Newport News
- 4.4% to Virginia Beach
- 4.2% to Portsmouth
- 4.1% to Richmond
- Other localities at 4% or less

Prison Releases (cont.)

Instant offense for which committed:

- 28.3% for violent offense
- 22.7% for drug offense
- 49% for non-violent offense (includes burglaries)

(Those committed for non-violent offenses may have a prior conviction for a violent offense)

Inmate Facts (CY2006)

- 7.7% were female (up from 6.2% in 1998)
- Average age at commitment was 33 years
- 56% entered with no HS diploma or GED
- 22% had no history of employment
- 59% had never been married
- 67% had history of substance abuse
- 15% had mental illness requiring treatment
- 20% had been diagnosed with chronic or communicable disease

New Commitments

- Over 42% had been in prison at some time in the past
- Over 46% were probation violators (9.5% technical; remainder committed new crime)

While Incarcerated

- 36.2% participated in GED and/or vocational educational programming
- 92% of those eligible for job assignments worked
- 37% of those with a history of substance abuse received intensive, evidence based treatment

Recidivism

- Virginia DOC measures recidivism as the percentage of inmates released in a year who are recommitted to DOC within 3 years
- Virginia's rate is 29%
- 30 states measure recidivism this way
- Virginia had 8th lowest rate among those 30 states

Virginia and Reentry

- Joined NGA Prisoner Reentry Academy in 2003
- Team included DOC, DCE, MHMRSAS, VPB, DSS, VEC, DHCD, DCJS, VDH, DRS, local and non-profit agencies
- Developed plan over next year
- Number of new and pilot programs
- Other states and Federal Government efforts
- Second Chances Act (HR1593 – passed House; pending action in Senate)

New/Expanded Programs

- Expanded DCE Vocational and Life Skills
- Community Residential Programs
- Cognitive based pre-release (Southampton - women; Powhatan – men)
- Dillwyn Transition Cooperative
- Jail based reentry
- PREPS (Buckingham)
- VASAVOR
- Transitional Therapeutic Community Beds
- VCCW Prerelease program
- Wallens Ridge transitional unit
- DOC Community Mental Health positions
- Specialized transition coordinators – DOC and DCE
- Career Readiness Certificate program (DCE)
- Community Based Pilot Programs – Local DSS agencies lead
- And other efforts...

Areas of Need

- Employment
- Housing
- Family
- Treatment (Physical and Mental Health)
- Need for multiple entities at state, local and other (non-profit, faith based, etc.) to work and plan together

Va. Tech Study of Vocational Training for Inmates

- Apples to apples comparisons in evaluation
- Reduced recidivism 6.5%
- Increased incomes 24%
- Higher employment rates
- Increased employment stability

Improving Data

- Need up to date, accessible data to assess needs and monitor effectiveness
- DOC, DCJS, Sentencing Commission, DJJ working together to develop standard cross matches for earlier data on rearrest, reconviction and recommitment – for prisons and jails
- DOC developing new automated system to track inmates and probates/parolees